

**BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN**

SECTION 2 - PUBLIC SAFETY
GENERAL ORDER

November 7, 2017
INDEX NO. 2.21

FIRE ATTACK

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide standard definitions regarding modes of fire attack and when each one is appropriate. It is also meant to enhance the safety of all fire ground personnel regardless of the mode of attack. This policy is in no way intended to prevent the Incident Commander or company officers from relying on their training and experience in their decision making during an incident.

II. POLICY

The safety of personnel is paramount at every incident. The Incident Commander shall utilize this policy at all structure fires for guidance when directing crews. Four modes of attack will be addressed; Defensive, Transitional, Marginal and Offensive. Each mode will be used according to the conditions that personnel encounter.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Defensive / Exterior Attack** - This fire attack is made from outside of the structure, with the emphasis on protecting exposures. This usually requires larger hose lines and water flow, such as 2.5" hose lines and / or master streams.
- B. **Transitional Attack** - This fire attack is changing from one mode to another. For example, employing a defensive attack until enough of the fire is extinguished to safely enter the structure. This may include an indirect attack through an exterior opening by directing a straight stream at the ceiling long enough to extinguish the bulk of the fire in that area.
- C. **Marginal Attack** - This type of fire attack is when fire suppression personnel are inside a structure, but the atmosphere has little to no visibility. This will require personnel to stay low, possibly on their hands and knees.
- D. **Offensive Attack** - An interior attack with enough visibility to allow fire suppression personnel to stand. Personnel will usually deploy a small diameter hose, such as a 1.75" hose, for an offensive attack.

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IV. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR SURVIVAL

- Size up your tactical area of operation.
- Determine the occupant survival profile.
- **DO NOT** risk your life for lives or property that cannot be saved.
- Extend **LIMITED** risk to protect **SAVABLE** property.
- Extend **VIGILANT** and **MEASURED** risk to protect and rescue **SAVABLE** lives.
- Go in together, stay together, and come out together.
- Maintain continuous awareness of your air supply, situation, location and fire conditions.
- Constantly monitor fire ground communications for critical radio reports.
- You are required to report unsafe practices or conditions that can harm you. Stop, evaluate, and decide.
- You are required to abandon your position and retreat before deteriorating conditions can harm you.
- Declare a MAYDAY as soon as you **THINK** you are in danger.

V. INCIDENT COMMANDER'S RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFETY

- Rapidly conduct or obtain a 360 degree situational size-up of the incident.
- Determine the occupant survival profile.
- Conduct an initial risk assessment and implement a **SAFE ACTION PLAN**.
- If you do not have the resources to safely support and protect fire suppression personnel, seriously consider a defensive strategy.
- **DO NOT** risk the lives of personnel for lives or property that cannot be saved. Seriously consider a defensive strategy.
- Extend **LIMITED** risk to protect **SAVABLE** property.
- Extend **VIGILANT** and **MEASURED** risk to protect and rescue **SAVABLE** lives.
- Act upon reported unsafe practices and conditions that can harm fire suppression personnel. Stop, evaluate, and decide.
- Maintain frequent two-way communications and keep interior crews informed of changing conditions.
- Obtain frequent progress reports and revise the action plan if needed.

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- Ensure accurate accountability, location, and status of all fire suppression personnel.
- If little to no progress towards fire control has been achieved after completing the primary search, seriously consider a defensive strategy.
- Always have a Rapid Intervention Team in place at all working fires.
- Always have Rehab Services in place for fire suppression personnel at all working fires.

VI. CREW INTEGRITY

Every crew, without exception, will consist of a minimum of two personnel. Each will have a radio tuned to the proper frequency. The accountability system shall be utilized at all times and crew integrity shall be maintained. Any re-arranging of crews will be at the exclusive discretion of the Incident Commander.

VII. RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

A Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) shall be assigned any time fire suppression personnel are entering an atmosphere deemed to be Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH). Before the RIT can be released or reassigned, the atmosphere within the structure must be determined to contain less than 35 ppm of carbon monoxide. However, even if the atmosphere is determined not to be IDLH, the RIT must be left in place if the possibility of collapse or other hazards continue to be present within the structure.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER

- A.** The Incident Commander has the exclusive responsibility to determine the mode of fire attack used. The criteria used to make this decision may be building construction, the condition of the building, signs of impending collapse, available personnel, size of the fire, rate of fire spread, probability of savable victims and the availability of needed equipment.

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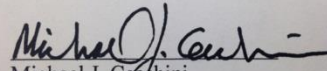
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- B.** If at any time it is the judgement of the Incident Commander or interior crews that conditions are unsafe, the Incident Commander will give the order to evacuate the structure. A Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) will be performed immediately once the building is evacuated.

By order of:



Michael J. Cecchini
Public Safety Director